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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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## Soviet Views on All-German Election

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composition of the election control commission could be settled through four<sup>th</sup> power negotiations. The USSR would submit her proposals for the international control of the elections and would make their acceptance dependent on the approval of both West and East Germany. If the West German Government accepted these proposals, the holding of free and All-German elections and their international control would not meet with any further difficulties. If West Germany rejected the Soviet offer, the responsibility for a failure of the conference would rest with the Bonn Government. Such a situation would offer the GDR Government the possibility of rejecting any Western election proposals unacceptable to it. Ulbricht therefore argued that there was no risk whatsoever in supporting the Soviet plan for an international control of the proposed all-German elections.

Comment. The Soviet plan to make the composition of an election control commission dependent on a West German acceptance of the Soviet proposals throws significant light on the Soviet tactics. The reunification of Germany is proposed, but at the same time the conditions for this reunification will be framed in such a way as to make them unacceptable to the West. This procedure gives the USSR the possibility of blaming the West for a failure of the attempts to reunify Germany.

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